to a promising sports person, who has equaled or excelled the existing national record or is a gold medallist of last National Championship or is a medallist of Asian/Commonwealth Games/Afro-Asian Games/ Olympic Games/World Championship in different sports disciplines for undergoing training abroad, purchase of sports equipment, obtaining scientific support, and for training and participation in tournaments in the country. To get the assistance under the scheme, promising sports persons should not be more than 25 years of age. For sports like shooting, golf, billiards and snooker, chess and yachting the age limit may be relaxed upto 35 years.

(iii) National Sports Development Funds:—Meritorious Sports persons seeking assistance under the scheme are also provided Financial Assistance for training.

Disallowance of Indian Body Builder at Busan

1191. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA;
SHRl GHULAM NABi AZAD:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's sole body-building competitor was disallowed to participate at the Busan Asian Games;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a!so a fact that officials of the Body Building Association of India had not allowed him to participate in the competition; and

(d) what exactly transpired between the athlete and the Association at Busan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHA KRISHAN): (a) to (d): On the recommendation of the Indian Olympic Association, Government had approved the participation of four Indian body builders in XIV AsianGames held at Busan. Indian Body Building Federation (IBBF) has informed that as one of the body builders, Shri Dinesh Aswal had violated the rules of Asian Body Building Federation (ABBF), the IBBF had informed his employer, Railway Sports Promotion Board, about his non-inclusion in the Indian Team participating in the Busan Asian Games. But without taking cognizance of the same, Shri Aswal obtained 'Stay orders' from the Hon'ble High Court and came to Busan, on this own. As such, officials of IBBF requested ABBF officials to allow Shri Aswal to participate in the Games, which however, was not acceded to by ABBF on the ground that Shri Aswal had

violated the guidelines of ABBF by doing product endorsement i.e. having posed for a food supplement product that was published in a Health magazine of India.

Consumption of Drugs by Indian Athletes

†1192. SHRIJANESHWARMISHRIA: Willthe Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of complaints regarding consumption of drugs by the Indian athletes during some of the last international events have been received;

(b) if so, the total number of such incidents, which have come to light, so far;

(c) whether it is also a fact that such incidents have degraded India in the international arena; and

(d) if so, the action taken so far by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHA KRiSHNAN): (a) Yes,Sir.

(b) Six sportspersons have been found positive for use of prohibited substance during the last 2-3 years.

(c) and (d) it can't be denied that such incidents detract from our sports-image at the international level. The issue of doping has engaged serious concern of the Government and the following measures have been taken to prevent use~ of the prohibited substances by the sportspersons.

- Strict instructions have been issued to the coaches, attached with the campers, to educate and regularly counsel the players against use of the banned drugs.
- Lectures are conducted by the Sports Medicine doctors at Netaji Subhash Chandra National Institute of Sports (NSNIS), Patiala and other regional centres, where camps are held, to educate the players not to use any banned drugs.
- Each camper is provided with documents, brochures about the banned "substances

†Orignal notice of the question was received in Hindi.